

clash in the future. Many expected that it would come to a head at Haripura, but the Ministerial crisis overshadowed everything else, and all elements unite in a crisis. The ranks were closed and there was very little dissension. The Left were anxious to maintain the unity of the Congress with the prospect of a new struggle, but the Ministers returned to office and the Right is stronger than ever. (But cf. p. 71.)

But, as we have seen, the situation both among the peasants and in the industrial centres is disturbed and likely to remain so. Legislation has been passed; it has not altogether satisfied the masses, while it has frightened the property-owning class. A leading Gandhi-man remarked to me that they had done much for the capitalists, but that they had not been prepared to make concessions in return. The capitalists, as elsewhere, gave the nationalists the sinews of war; now the Congress will either have to put pressure on them or lose the support of the masses.

From a little coterie of middle-class intellectuals the Congress has become a party of 3⁴ millions, probably the largest in the world. Literacy will still further broaden its basis and safeguard its democratic character. The landlords and capitalists do not feel too easy about the Congress, and a section of the Muslim middle class is violently opposed to it, embarrassing the ministries whenever possible. But the Congress is immensely strong. During the period of office, it has restored a degree of civil liberty⁷, reduced the salaries of Ministers to Rs.500 *per mensem*; it has fought the drink and opium traffic; it has rushed through the legislatures ameliorative measures; it has established enquiry committees in Bombay and Cawnpore, whose findings are favourable to the needs of the workers. If there were people who thought that the advent of the Congress to power would mean chaos, they have been grievously disappointed. But it was clever of the British to grant provincial autonomy. Congress to-day is